

ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

GUIDELINES FOR THE 2008-2009 AND 2009-2010 HUNTING SEASONS

May 29, 2007

SCHEDULE FOR FORMULATING 2008-2009 AND 2009-2010 HUNT RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
May 8, 2007	Hunt Guidelines distributed to Department for internal review	Game Branch
May 21, 2007	All recommended changes to guidelines are due to Game Branch	All Regions
May 22, 2007	Joint meeting to review Hunt Guideline recommended changes	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
May 29, 2007	Draft Hunt Guidelines to Executive Staff for initial review	Game Branch
Jun 5-21, 2007	Hold public meetings	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Jun 25, 2007	Public comment period ends	Game Branch
Jul 17, 2007	Draft Hunt Guidelines to Executive Staff for review and approval	Game Branch
Jul 30, 2007	Commission memos distributed to Regions and Commission. Available to public at Regional offices	Game Branch-Director's Office
Aug 11, 2007	Draft Hunt Guidelines for fall 2008-spring 2010 seasons presented to Commission for approval	Game Branch
Oct 15, 2007	Pronghorn , elk, and population management hunt and permit recommendations submitted in writing to Game Branch	Regional Supervisors
Oct 23-24, 2007	Hold meetings with individual Regions to finalize recommendations and analyze public input	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Nov 26, 2007	Commission memos distributed to Regions and Commission. Available to public at Regional offices and during Regional open houses	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Dec 8, 2007	Present hunt recommendations to Commission to set seasons and bag limits for pronghorn, elk, and population management seasons	Game Branch
Mar 1, 2008	Deer, fall turkey, fall javelina, bighorn sheep, fall buffalo, fall bear, mountain lion, small game (2-year), trapping (2-year), predator-furbearer (2-year), and other birds and mammals (2-year) hunt and permit recommendations submitted in writing to Game Branch	Regional Supervisors
Mar 9-16, 2008	Hold meetings with individual Regions to finalize recommendations and analyze public input	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Mar 2008	Commission memos distributed to Regions and Commission. Available to public at Regional offices and during Regional open houses	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Apr 2008	Present hunt recommendations to Commission to set seasons and bag limits for deer, fall turkey, fall javelina, bighorn sheep, fall buffalo, fall bear, mountain lion, small game (2-year), trapping (2-year), predator-furbearer (2-year), and other birds and mammals (2-year) seasons	Game Branch

*Arizona Game and Fish Department
Hunt Guidelines for Fall 2008 through Spring 2010*

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<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
Jun 2008	Commission memos distributed to Regions and Commission. Available to public at Regional offices	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Jun 2008	Present webless migratory hunt recommendations to Commission to set permit number and bag limits	Game Branch
Jul 1, 2008	Spring turkey, javelina, buffalo, and bear hunt and permit recommendations submitted in writing to Game Branch	Regional Supervisors
Jul 2008	Commission memos distributed to Regions and Commission. Available to public at Regional offices and during Regional open houses	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Aug 2008	Present spring turkey, javelina, buffalo, and bear and webbed migratory hunt recommendations to Commission to set permit numbers and bag limits	Game Branch
Oct 15, 2008	Pronghorn , elk , and population management hunt and permit recommendations submitted in writing to Game Branch	Regional Supervisors
Oct 2008	Hold meetings with individual Regions to finalize recommendations and analyze public input	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Nov 2008	Commission memos distributed to Regions and Commission. Available to public at Regional offices and during Regional open houses	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Dec 2008	Present hunt recommendations to Commission to set seasons and bag limits for pronghorn, elk, and population management seasons	Game Branch
Mar 1, 2009	Deer, fall turkey, fall javelina, bighorn sheep, fall buffalo, fall bear, mountain lion hunt and permit recommendations submitted in writing to Game Branch	Regional Supervisors
Mar 2009	Hold meetings with individual Regions to finalize recommendations and analyze public input	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Apr 2009	Commission memos distributed to Regions and Commission. Available to public at Regional offices and during Regional open houses	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Apr 2009	Present hunt recommendations to Commission to set seasons and bag limits for deer, fall turkey, fall javelina, bighorn sheep, fall buffalo, fall bear, mountain lion seasons	Game Branch
Jun 2009	Commission memos distributed to Regions and Commission. Available to public at Regional offices	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Jun 2009	Present webless migratory hunt recommendations to Commission to set permit number and bag limits	Game Branch
Jul 1, 2009	Spring turkey, javelina, buffalo, and bear hunt and permit recommendations submitted in writing to Game Branch	Regional Supervisors

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<u>DEADLINE</u>	<u>ASSIGNMENT</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
Jul 2009	Commission memos distributed to Regions and Commission. Available to public at Regional offices and during Regional open houses	Game Branch and Regional Personnel
Aug 2009	Present spring turkey, javelina, buffalo, and bear and webbed migratory hunt recommendations to Commission to set permit numbers and bag limits	Game Branch

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BIOLOGICAL LIMITATIONS

The Department manages Arizona's wildlife within the biological limits of each species. Management strategies are developed to meet social acceptability, which is routinely much more conservative than the limits at which wildlife may be biologically managed. For instance, deer must approach 4-7 bucks:100 does before reproductive capability is compromised. Similarly, elk must reach 5-10 bulls:100 cows. Pronghorn are similar, and may be managed at low buck to doe ratios. Turkeys may sustain removal of 10% of females before hunting mortality is considered additive, and can sustain removal of 50% of males during a spring season.

HUNT GUIDELINE APPROACHES

Maintain two-year hunt guideline framework aligned with the following approaches whereby the Department and Commission revisit the guideline package with the public every two years in the summer. Use all necessary public outreach and information gathering avenues to ensure inclusion of all affected and interested customers in guideline and recommendation development.

Maintain consistent wildlife survey protocol and interpretation to develop hunt recommendations across the state in accordance with the Species Management Guidelines and other pertinent plans (e.g., Elk and Pronghorn Management Plans).

To the extent possible, provide standardized and consistent hunt structures across the state; minimize and simplify hunt regulations and restrictions related to the hunt structure. However, standardization and simplified hunt structures should not stand in the way of increasing opportunity.

Maximize hunter opportunity while maintaining wildlife population health, structure, and integrity. Guidelines for this approach are:

- Minimize hunt opportunity when the legal animals are most vulnerable (e.g., breeding period) in standard management areas.
- Optimize hunt opportunity with respect to demand.
- Maximize big game opportunity where practicable through the use of over-the-counter nonpermit tags.
- Use population management hunts to address specific management objectives that are not being achieved through standard hunt structures.
- Use stratified hunt structure to minimize user conflicts.
- Provide dispersed and limited alternative management (i.e., objectives are high hunt success and/or harvest of older age class animals) across the state without exceeding demand.
- Use targeted and liberalized big game harvest by hunters to address human-wildlife conflicts.

Distribute limited big game harvest opportunity commensurate with demand by weapon type and success rates where practical. Institute necessary harvest opportunity controls when harvest by one method exceeds statewide average demand levels impacting our abilities to increase opportunities for a weapon type with a higher user demand.

Emphasize youth and new big game hunter opportunities. In doing so, provide diverse and dispersed hunt opportunities to allow equitable availability and minimal conflict with other users.

Emphasize small game hunter, predator-furbearer, and other wildlife hunter opportunities. Guidelines for this approach are:

- Liberalize bag and possession limits as well as season lengths within sustainable biological means to encourage hunter participation.
- Maintain consistent season opener and structure to reduce hunter confusion among years.

COMMISSION ORDER 2: DEER

The Department's Deer Management Goal is to maintain deer populations at levels that provide maximum and diverse recreational opportunities, while avoiding adverse impacts to the species and its habitat. Guidelines for both species are grouped into "Standard" or "Alternative" hunt management.

Season prescriptions:

1. Hunts will be for "antlered mule deer," "antlered whitetail deer," or "any antlered deer." "Antlerless deer" or "any deer" permits may be recommended for units where the deer population requires reduction or stabilization, or when conflicts with other land management uses exist.
2. Separate hunts for mule deer and white-tailed deer will occur in units having substantial populations of both species of deer.
3. General deer hunts will occur on standard opening dates. When stratified, a series of 7-day hunts may occur throughout October and November with all hunts opening on a specific Friday and closing the following Thursday. A December white-tailed deer hunt will open the Friday of week 50 and continue to the end of the year. The following seasons will be available:

Juniors-only (northern Arizona) on Friday of week 41 (October 10, 2008 and October 9, 2009)
White-tailed on Friday of week 43 (October 24, 2008 and October 23, 2009)
White-tailed or Mule Deer on Friday of week 44 (October 31, 2008 and October 30, 2009)
Mule Deer on Friday of week 45 (November 7, 2008 and November 6, 2009)
Mule Deer on Friday of week 46 (November 14, 2008 and November 13, 2009)
Juniors-only on Friday of week 47 (November 21, 2008 and November 20, 2009)
White-tailed on Friday of week 48 (November 28, 2008 and November 27, 2009)
White-tailed on Friday of week 50 (December 12, 2008 and December 11, 2009)

If only a single early deer season is selected in October or November, the season will run for 10 days. Antlerless elk seasons will not overlap with a deer season in units with hunts for both species. Season dates will be selected to avoid such overlaps. If the unit is managed under Alternative Hunt Management, 10-day seasons may also be used.

4. Archery deer seasons may begin on Friday of week 34 (August 22, 2008 and August 21, 2009) and run for 22 days. Archery deer seasons may also begin on Friday of week 50 (December 12, 2008 and December 11, 2009) and run through end of December or January 31 of the following year. An archery deer season may begin on January 1 and run through January 31.
5. "Alternative Hunt Management" will provide opportunities to harvest older age class animals, for lower hunter densities, and for higher hunt success. Alternative hunt management for mule deer will occur in Units 12A, 12B, 13A, 13B, 45A, 45B, and 45C; hunts will be managed in accordance with the parameters below. Alternative hunt management for white-tailed deer will occur in Units 6A, 23, 30B, 31, and 36C; hunts will be managed in accordance with the parameters below. A limited amount of December white-tailed deer harvest opportunity will be offered in most white-tailed deer units, but up to 30% of the harvest will be allocated with December permits in those units managed under Alternative Hunt Management. A total of up to 5% of all white-tailed deer permits statewide will be offered in December.
6. There will be at least one general juniors-only deer hunt offered in each Region structured to provide a season encompassing a school holiday. At least three percent of all general deer permits will be allocated to juniors-only hunts.

Opportunity prescriptions:

- A. Wildlife Managers will manage mule deer for the center of guideline ranges, while keeping confidence intervals in mind. The most recent three-year trend in indices to deer abundance and hunt success will be used to determine if changes in permit numbers are appropriate. Emphasis will be placed on the current year's fawn:doe ratio. Buck:doe ratios will receive less emphasis, and the average of the most recent three years will be applied to the guidelines. Hunting opportunities should be maximized, providing an equitable allocation of harvest among weapon types.

Standard Mule Deer Hunt Guidelines

Parameters	Decrease	No change	Increase
Fawns:100 Does	<40	40 to 50	>50
Bucks:100 Does	<10	10 to 20	>20
Hunt Success	<15%	15 to 20%	>20%
Population Trend	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing

Alternative Mule Deer Hunt Objectives

Parameters	12A/12B (late hunts)	13A/13B	45A/45B/45C
Fawns:100 Does	>60 (12A)	—	—
Bucks:100 Does	>20	>20	>20
Hunt Success	50-70%	50-70%	20-30%
Browse Use	<50%	—	—
% of Buck harvest >3 yrs	55-75%	65-80%	45-65%
% of Buck harvest >5 yrs	20-30%	45-55%	—
Hunter Density	<0.5/sq.mi.	<0.5/sq.mi.	<0.5/sq.mi.
Yearling Buck Weights	>90 lbs.(12A)	—	—

- B. Wildlife Managers will manage white-tailed deer for the center of guideline ranges, while keeping confidence intervals in mind. The most recent three-year trend in indices to deer abundance and hunt success will be used to determine if changes in permit numbers are appropriate. Emphasis will be placed on the current year's fawn:doe ratio. Buck:doe ratios will receive less emphasis and the average of the most recent three years will be applied to the guidelines. Hunting opportunities should be maximized, with an equitable allocation of harvest among weapon types.

Standard White-tailed Deer Hunt Guidelines

Parameters	Decrease	No change	Increase
Fawns:100 Does	<30	30 to 40	>40
Bucks:100 Does	<15	15 to 25	>25
Hunt Success	<15%	15 to 20%	>20%
Population Trend	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing

Alternative White-tailed Deer Hunt Objectives

Parameters	Guidelines
Fawns:100 Does	35 to 45
Bucks:100 Does	25 to 35
Hunt Success	20 to 30%
Population Trend	Stable

- C. Archery hunt opportunity in a unit will be offered according to the table below. Archery deer harvest will be managed not to exceed 20% of the overall harvest in a unit. When archery deer harvest meets or exceeds 20% of overall harvest, the Wildlife Manager will recommend reductions in archery hunt opportunity according to the following prescriptions, to include permitting harvest. Permitted harvest once prescribed will be managed to meet demand by weapon type.

Current Archery Hunt Structure in Unit	Overall Harvest	Management Action
August-September and December-January	20% or greater	Eliminate December Opportunity
August-September and January	20% or greater	Eliminate last 2-weeks of January
August-September and first 2 weeks of January	20% or greater	Eliminate January Opportunity
August-September Only	20% or greater	Archery-only Permit
December-January Only	20% or greater	Eliminate December Opportunity
January Only	20% or greater	Archery-only Permit in December
No Archery Deer Hunt	N/A	Archery-only Permit in August-September

COMMISSION ORDER 3: PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

The Department's Pronghorn Antelope Management Goal is to maintain pronghorn antelope populations at levels that provide diverse recreational opportunities.

Season prescriptions:

1. All pronghorn antelope permits will be for "buck only."
2. Pronghorn antelope hunts may be stratified. Fourteen-day archery seasons will begin on Friday of week 34 (August 22, 2008 and August 21, 2009). If an archery season must be stratified, the first 14-day season will begin on Friday of week 32 (August 8, 2008 and August 7, 2009), and the second 14-day season will begin on Friday of week 34 (August 22, 2008 and August 21, 2009). If firearm seasons are stratified, there will be a seven-day muzzleloader or general season beginning on Friday of week 36 (September 5, 2008 and September 4, 2009) and a seven-day muzzleloader or general season beginning on Friday of week 37 (September 12, 2008 and September 11, 2009). If the firearm season is not stratified, a ten-day season will begin on Friday of week 36 (September 5, 2008 and September 4, 2009). To the extent possible, harvest will be allocated to meet first-choice applicant demand among weapon types.

Opportunity prescriptions:

- A. Wildlife Managers will manage pronghorn for the center of guideline ranges, while keeping confidence intervals in mind. The most recent three year average in buck:doe ratios should receive greater emphasis than fawn:doe ratios when determining permit levels. The most recent three year trends in buck:doe and fawn:doe ratios will also be considered.
- B. If the population is within guidelines, permit numbers should reflect a desired harvest of 15 to 25% of the estimated number of available bucks in the population.

Guideline	Decrease	Stay the Same	Increase
Fawns:100 Does	<30	30 to 40	>40
Bucks:100 Does	<20	20 to 30	>30
Population Trend	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing

COMMISSION ORDER 4: ELK

The Department's Elk Management Goal is to maintain elk populations at levels that provide maximum and diverse recreational opportunities, while avoiding adverse impacts to the species and its habitat while minimizing land use conflicts. Guidelines are grouped into "Standard" or "Alternative" hunt management.

Season prescriptions:

1. At least five percent of the total elk permits will be allocated to juniors-only antlerless seasons.
2. Habitat based management objectives will be included in the determination of elk population objectives, using forage use monitoring results per Department protocol, for individual elk herd units where this data is available.
3. Field ages from harvested elk may be used in the determination of elk population objectives and trends.
4. "Antlerless elk" hunts may be recommended in units or herds when possible in accordance with the Elk Management Plan. The number of permits may be adjusted annually to reduce, stabilize, or allow for an increase in the elk population.
5. Limited opportunity elk hunts may be recommended to address population management concerns during times that best meet management objectives. Limited opportunity hunts may be offered as over the counter non-permit tags.
6. Population management hunts may be established in accordance with A.R.S. 17-239 and R12-4-115 to meet management objectives with goals, recommendations, or guidelines that were not met during regular seasons.
7. Harvest among general, muzzleloader, and archery seasons by sex will be allocated according to demand (five-year averages), excluding limited opportunity hunts.
8. At least six general early bull elk hunts will be offered annually; two each in Regions 1 and 2 and one each in Regions 3 and 6. At least six muzzleloader bull elk seasons will be offered annually; two each in Regions 1 and 2 and one each in Regions 3 and 6.
9. Early archery elk seasons will begin on Friday of week 37 (September 12, 2008 and September 11, 2009), and run for fourteen days. Late archery elk season will begin on Friday of week 46 (November 14, 2008 and November 13, 2009) and run for 14 days. All units under standard management will have an early and late archery hunt structure. In the first year, 25 permits will be issued in addition to existing archery structure. In subsequent years, harvest will be managed according to statewide demand for early and late hunts.
10. Early muzzleloader elk seasons will begin on Friday of week 39 (September 26, 2008 and September 25, 2009) and run for seven days. Late muzzleloader elk seasons will begin on Friday of week 46 (November 14, 2008 and November 13, 2009) and run for seven days. Muzzleloader elk season dates may be established as needed in December to address population management objectives.
11. Early general bull elk seasons will begin on Friday of week 39 (September 26, 2008 and September 25, 2009) and run for seven days. Late general bull elk seasons will begin on Friday of week 48 (November 28, 2008 and November 27, 2009) and run for seven days.
12. Early general antlerless elk and juniors-only antlerless elk seasons will begin on Friday of week 42 (October 17, 2008 and October 16, 2009) and run for seven days. Late general antlerless elk seasons may be established as needed in December to address population management objectives.

Opportunity prescriptions:

- A. Wildlife Managers will manage elk for the center of guideline ranges, while keeping confidence intervals in mind. The most recent three-year trends for all population indices should also be taken into consideration when determining permit adjustments.

The following table will be use when determining bull permits for standard management. Hunt opportunity should be maximized and emphasis will be placed on bull:cow ratios.

Bull Permits should	Decrease	Stay the Same	Increase
Calves:100 Cows	<30	30 to 40	>40
Bulls:100 Cows	<15	15 to 25	>25
Hunt Success	<20	20 to 30	>30
Population Trend	Decreasing	Stable	Increasing

- B. Units 1, 9, 10, and 23 will be managed to alternative guidelines. In these units, bull:cow ratios will be managed for up to 40:100 in accordance with the Elk Management Plan.
- C. In units managed according to alternative guidelines, at least 50% of bull elk harvested on early archery, early muzzleloader, and/or early general season should have six antler points or more on a side.
- D. In Units 1, 9, 10 and 23 there will be an early archery elk hunt annually, whereas the early general and muzzleloader bull elk hunts will be offered during alternate years.

COMMISSION ORDER 5: TURKEY

The Department's Turkey Management Goal is to maintain turkey populations at levels that provide maximum and diverse recreational opportunities. Habitat quality, population status, hunter density, and hunt success will be used to determine hunting opportunities for both spring and fall seasons.

Season prescriptions:

1. Spring limited weapon shotgun shooting shot seasons will be stratified. The first stratified season will open on Friday of week 17 (April 24, 2009 and April 23, 2010) for seven days, close for seven days, and reopen for 14 days.
2. The second stratified limited weapon shotgun shooting shot spring season shall start on the Friday of week 18 (April 31, 2009 and April 30, 2010) for 21 consecutive days. Stratified seasons will result in the overlap of the last 14 days of the first and second seasons.
3. Juniors-only limited weapon shotgun shooting shot spring seasons will start on Friday of week 16 (April 17, 2009 and April 16, 2010) for 35 consecutive days. At least five percent of the permits statewide will be offered to juniors if only permit tags are authorized.
4. Limited weapon shotgun shooting shot fall season will begin on Friday of week 41 (October 10, 2008 and October 9, 2009) for seven days.
5. Archery turkey seasons will open and close to coincide with early fall archery deer season.
6. Juniors-only shotgun shooting shot fall seasons will be recommended with season dates concurrent with limited weapon shotgun shooting shot fall seasons. At least five percent of the permits statewide will be offered to juniors if only permit tags are authorized.

Opportunity prescriptions:

Hunting opportunity will be determined through a Turkey Management Worksheet, which involves a three-step process of:

- A. Determining spring and fall hunt structures by unit.
- B. Determining permit changes by unit.
- C. Determining maximum spring hunter density by unit.

Management guidelines are:

- D. Hunt structure will fall into one of the following categories as determined by a score generated from the Habitat Quality Scorecard and a decision of status within the unit.
 - i. If the score is A, the unit will have a permitted fall hunt and a permitted spring hunt. Juniors should be issued over-the-counter nonpermit tags for spring or fall hunts in these units.
 - ii. If the score is B, the unit will have a permitted fall hunt and a permitted spring hunt. Juniors should be issued over-the-counter nonpermit tags for spring hunts in these units.
 - iii. If the score is C, the unit may have a permitted fall hunt and/or a permitted spring hunt. Permits should be set to remove about 10% of the female segment (fall seasons) or 30% of the male segment (spring seasons). Juniors hunts, if offered in these units, should be limited through the draw.
 - iv. If the score is D, the unit may have a permitted fall hunt and/or permitted spring hunt. Permits should be set to remove less than 10% of the female segment (fall seasons) or 30% of the male segment (spring seasons). Juniors hunts should not be offered in these units.
- E. Permit changes for each hunt and unit will be determined using hunt success and most recent 3-year trend in hunt success. Permit options are as follows.
 - i. Permit numbers will increase when:
 - a. Mean hunt success is greater than 10% and hunt success trend is increasing, or
 - b. Mean hunt success is greater than 15% and hunt success is stable.
 - ii. Permit numbers will remain unchanged when:
 - a. Mean hunt success is less than 10% and hunt success trend is increasing, or
 - b. Mean hunt success is 10-15% and hunt success trend is stable, or
 - c. Mean hunt success is greater than 15% and hunt success is declining.
 - iii. Permit numbers will decrease when:
 - a. Mean hunt success is less than 10% and hunt success is stable or declining, or
 - b. Mean hunt success is 10-15% and hunt success trend is declining.

COMMISSION ORDER 6: JAVELINA

The Department's Javelina Management Goal is to maintain javelina populations at levels that provide maximum and diverse recreational opportunities, while avoiding adverse impacts to the habitat, and minimizing substantiated depredation and nuisance complaints.

1. Firearm hunt recommendations will include "handgun, archery, and muzzleloader" (HAM) hunts and general hunts. HAM seasons will begin the Friday of week six (February 6, 2009 and February 5, 2010) and run for 10 days. The general season will open on Friday of week eight (February 20, 2009 and February 19, 2010) and run for seven days. Juniors-only seasons will begin on Friday of week four (January 23, 2009 and January 22, 2010) and run for 10 days. At least 10% of the total permits will be allocated to juniors-only seasons, including fall permits.
2. Archery seasons will begin on January 1 and extend through Thursday of week four (January 22, 2009 and January 21, 2010).
3. Primary javelina hunt areas will offer general, HAM, and archery hunting opportunities.
4. Permits will be allocated among season type by first-choice application demand (five year averages).
5. Fall seasons will be offered in Region 5 units with an allocation of 15% of the total permits across all season choices. Fall permits will be allocated to juniors-only general seasons that will run for seven days concurrent with juniors-only deer season time period.
6. Metro units will have over the counter nonpermit tags for archery during January 1 and extend through Thursday of week four (January 22, 2009 and January 21, 2010).

Opportunity prescriptions:

- A. Manage for an average herd size of 6-9 adults per herd or 7-10 total javelina per herd. A decrease in permits is indicated when the average herd size is below 6 adults or 7 total javelina. An increase in permits is indicated when the average herd size exceeds 9 adults or 10 total javelina.
- B. Permit recommendations should consider current recruitment. A juvenile javelina will be considered to be any javelina that is less than one-half grown. A decrease in permits is indicated when recruitment is less than 20 juveniles:100 adults. An increase in permits is indicated when recruitment exceeds 30 juveniles:100 adults.

Permits should	Decrease	Stay the Same	Increase
Herd size	<6 adult or 7 total	6 to 9 adult or 7 to 10 total	>9 adult or 10 total
Juv:100 adults	<20	20 to 30	>30
Hunt Success	<20%	20 to 25%	>25%
Population Trend	Declining	Stable	Increasing

- C. Survey data, hunt success, average hunter days/kill, and total harvest should be evaluated on at least a 3-year trend basis. A decrease in permits is indicated when the above data demonstrate a declining trend in the javelina population. An increase in permits is indicated when the above data demonstrate an increasing trend.
- D. Population management hunts may be established to meet management objectives with goals, recommendations, or guidelines that were not met during regular seasons.

COMMISSION ORDER 7: BIGHORN SHEEP

The Department's Bighorn Sheep Management Goals are to increase bighorn sheep populations and to provide diverse recreational opportunities, while avoiding adverse impacts to the habitat.

Season prescriptions:

1. Units may be subdivided into smaller hunt units to prevent hunters concentrating in specific areas within mountain ranges.
2. All hunts will be general seasons.
3. Hunts may be stratified when hunter densities warrant.
4. Most seasons will occur during the month of December. Hunt areas may be open earlier or later depending on hunter access and historical success.

Opportunity prescriptions:

- A. Hunt recommendations should be based on mean data from the last 3 years and developed using estimated populations based on survey protocols and sighting probabilities contained within the Species Management Guidelines. Harvest will be managed to allow for the take of 15 to 25% of the estimated Class III and Class IV rams. Wildlife Managers will manage bighorn sheep for the center of guideline range, while keeping confidence interval in mind.
- B. Permit numbers should be increased considering lower than expected past hunt success in individual hunt areas to achieve desired harvest.

COMMISSION ORDER 8: BUFFALO

The Department's Buffalo Management Goal is to maintain buffalo populations at levels, which provide maximum and diverse recreational opportunities, while avoiding adverse impacts to the habitat. The Department will encourage hunters to remain flexible in scheduling their hunt to enhance the effectiveness of this wildlife management effort.

Season prescriptions:

1. Seasons dates and structures will be designed to meet population management objectives.
2. Yearlong season may be offered for House Rock Wildlife Area for buffalo through the spring draw.
3. The number and age class of buffalo to be harvested will be determined from annual herd inventory data.

Opportunity prescriptions:

- A. All general hunts will be limited by permits to meet herd management objectives. Permits will be for "adult bull only," "cow only," "yearling only," "cow or yearling only," or "any buffalo."
- B. Population management hunts may be established to meet management objectives with goals, recommendations, or guidelines that were not met during regular seasons.
- C. Population management hunts may be offered on House Rock Wildlife Area for cow or yearling buffalo after successful harvest by permitted spring draw hunters to attain maximum harvest.

COMMISSION ORDER 9: BEAR

The Department's Bear Management Goal is to manage black bear population numbers and distribution as an important part of Arizona's fauna, while providing maximum hunting and other related recreational opportunities. The hunt recommendation goal is to allow as much bear hunting opportunity as possible, while minimizing the harvest of adult females.

Season prescriptions:

1. Stratified seasons may be used during general bear seasons to distribute harvest throughout the fall. Any combination of the following hunts may be used. An early fall general hunt will begin on August 1, 2008 and 2009 and end on Thursday of week 34 (August 21, 2008 and August 20, 2009). A fall general or archery season will begin on Friday of week 34 (August 22, 2008 and August 21, 2009) and run for 32 days. A late fall general bear season will open on Friday of week 39 (September 26, 2008 and September 25, 2009) and run through the end of the year. Hunts will be offered to spread female bear harvest throughout the fall. In units with female harvest objectives that total less than four, a single season may be offered. Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 will each have at least one archery bear season. Regions will manage hunt structure to ensure that a release site is available so that release sites are available for nuisance bears.
2. Spring bear seasons may be offered beginning the Friday of week 12 (March 21, 2008, March 20, 2009, and March 19, 2010) and running 42 days. A second spring season may be offered beginning the Friday of week 19 (May 9, 2008, May 8, 2009, and May 7, 2010) and running until July 31. The seasons may be permitted or over the counter. Both hunt options will be coupled with a female harvest objective.

Opportunity prescriptions:

- A. Each unit will have an annual female harvest objective that coincides with the calendar year. The annual female harvest objective should not exceed 10% of the female segment of the estimated population. Individual hunts in each unit will also have a female harvest objective for each hunt to distribute opportunity and will close specific hunts when achieved. Female harvests will be cumulative and include any female bears killed by the Department. Once the annual female harvest objective for a unit is achieved, all subsequent bear hunts in that unit will be closed for the remainder of the year.
- B. Implement hunt structures (season dates, season length) which direct harvest toward the male segment of the bear population.
- C. Evaluate data on a unit basis to determine population status and effect of harvest. Age and sex data from previous harvests should help evaluate the status of a unit's bear population and establish an appropriate female harvest objective. Median age of harvested females should be >5 years of age.
- D. Population management hunts may be established to meet management objectives with goals, recommendations, or guidelines that were not met during regular seasons.

COMMISSION ORDER 10: MOUNTAIN LION

The Department's Lion Management Goal is to manage the mountain lion population, its numbers and distribution, as an important part of Arizona's fauna while providing maximum mountain lion hunting and other recreational opportunities.

1. Hunt recommendations will be made on a unit basis.
2. A unit may be recommended for closure if necessary to maintain a lion population.
3. Mountain lion seasons shall run from September 1 through May 31, except in hunt areas with multiple bag limits, which will run from July 1 to June 30.

4. Multiple bag limits may be offered in hunt units or a portion of a hunt unit to increase lion hunting opportunity. These should be designed to assist in achieving population objectives for another wildlife species.

COMMISSION ORDERS 11-12, 15-22, AND 24: SMALL GAME

The Department's Small Game Management intent is to provide as much small game hunting opportunity as possible. Seasons will be designed to allow standardization and simplification of hunt regulations, better distribution of hunters, and the opportunity to hunt more than one species at the same time.

1. Small game seasons, excluding migratory game birds, will be set for a two-year time period.
2. Small game seasons will be open statewide.
3. Gambel's, Scaled, and California quail will begin on second Friday of October (October 10, 2008 and October 9, 2009) and close on second Monday of February (February 9, 2009 and February 8, 2010) the following year. Falconry-only quail will start two weeks prior to the opening of the general quail season (September 26, 2009 and September 25, 2010). Mearns' quail will open the fourth Friday in November, (November 28, 2008 and November 27, 2009) and close the third Monday in February (February 16, 2009 and February 15, 2010) the following year to coincide with President's Day Holiday. Pheasant will be open for five 3-day seasons, all to occur during weekends (Friday-Sunday). The seasons may begin as early as September and close in December. Since pheasant hunting conditions are dependent on local agricultural practices, the dates should remain flexible to take advantage of these conditions. Chukar and Blue Grouse will open on the second Friday in September (September 12, 2008 and September 11, 2009) and close the third Sunday of November (November 16, 2008 and November 15, 2009). Tree Squirrel will open on the second Friday in October (October 10, 2008 and October 9, 2009) and close December 31. Cottontail Rabbit will be open yearlong; however, there may be shorter seasons on the National Wildlife Refuges.
4. Migratory game bird seasons and bag limits will be set according to Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Pacific Flyway guidelines. These recommendations will be reviewed with the Commission annually.

COMMISSION ORDERS 13 AND 23: PREDATORY AND FUR-BEARING MAMMALS AND TRAPPING

The Department's predatory and fur-bearing mammals management intents are to maintain present range, distribution, and population levels in Arizona; and to allow for maximum recreational, economic, and aesthetic uses commensurate with existing populations statewide. Predatory and fur-bearing mammal seasons will be set for a two-year time period.

COMMISSION ORDER 14: OTHER BIRDS AND MAMMALS

The taking of nongame birds and mammals will be consistent with the Department's desire to allow recreational opportunities, commensurate with existing populations statewide. Other birds and mammal seasons will be set for a two-year time period.